

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VANCOU 00256 112306Z

14

ACTION USIA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MMO-04 PER-03 SS-15 SP-02 ABF-01

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FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2636

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS VANCOUVER 0256

DEPT PASS TO USIA

OTTAWA FOR USIS

USIA FOR DIRECTOR KEOGH FROM ENDERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: USIS POST VANCOUVER

1. IN COURSE OF AN INITIAL VISIT VANCOUVER HAVE DISCUSSED ESTABLISHING USIS POST IN CONGEN. MY CONCLUDING IS THAT USIS OPERATION IS ESSENTIAL TO US MISSION OBJECTIVES IN WESTERN CANADA. THERE ARE ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY-RELATED ISSUES HERE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO US/CANADIAN RELATIONS. BRITISH COLUMBIA AND ALBERTA, THE TWO AREAS TO BE SERVICED BY A NEW OPERATION. ARE VITAL SOURCES OF OIL AND GAS SUPPLIES. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR USG TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH KEY EDITORS AND TIV JOURNALISTS AND TO PROVIDE BACKGROUND INFORMATION SUPPORTING US POLICIES. CONGEN VANCOUVER WILL BE EXPANDING CONTACTS IN GOVERNMENT, IN THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND WITH ACADEMIC LEADERS. ASSIIGNMENT OF BPAO WOULD ENHANCE THIS INCREASED PROFILE.

2. WESTERN CANADA IS SITE OF MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES BETWEEN THE US AND CANADA. MEDIA COVERAGE OFTEN DISTORTS US

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POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES. BPAO IS NEEDED TO PROVIDE OBJECTIVE

AND FACTUAL INFORMATION RELATING TO IMPORTANT BILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS.

3. CONGEN VANCOUVER IS HOLDING SPACE FOR BPAO AND ONE OR TWO CANADIAN ASSISTANTS. OPERATING COSTS WOULD THEREFORE BE HELD TO A MINIMUM. COSTS FOR OPENING USIS POST HAVE BEEN PROVIDED BY USIS OTTAWA.
4. WIRELESS FILE HAS ALREADY BEEN INSTALLED IN CONGEN AND CONSULATE STAFF IS CARRYING OUT AS MUCH PRESS SERVICING AS THEIR DUTIES PERMIT. HOWEVER, A FULL-TIME BPAO IS BADLY NEEDED AT THIS POST.
5. AM VISITING WASHINGTON MARCH 16 AND 17 AND WOULD LIKE TO COME AROUND TO DISCUSS THIS AND OTHER USIS MATTERS. COULD YOUR SECRETARY GIVE EUR/CAN JOHN ROUSE A TIME?
BURGOON

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